

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,359,707 to Tadokoro et al. (herein “Tadokoro”) in view of U.S. patent 6,545,771 to Sakai et al. (herein “Sakai”).

Addressing the above-noted rejection, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note each of independent claims 1, 10, and 19 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now further recites “a plurality of sheet trays configured to store respective types of transfer sheets”. Independent claim 1 further recites that the memory stores a first data table representing a relationship between the plurality of print trays, “said plurality of sheet trays”, and at least communications mechanism. Independent claim 1 now also further recites that the processor is configured to select “one of said respective types of transfer sheets from a respective sheet tray” in addition to selecting one of the plurality of print colors. The other independent claims 10 and 19 are also amended by the present response to recite similar limitations as in amended independent claim 1.

The recited claim features are believed to be fully supported by the original specification, for example in Figure 5 and Figure 6 steps 609, 610, 614, and 615.

According to features clarified in the claims, both a type of recording sheet from a specific of sheet trays and one of a plurality of print colors is selected in response to a communication mechanism and corresponding specific facsimile procedure used to receive facsimile image data. That is, in the claims as currently written facsimile outputs are differentiated by changing recording colors and selecting a type of recording sheet. Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Tadokoro and Sakai.

First, applicants note that neither the teachings in Tadokoro nor Sakai are cited with respect to the features discussed above of selecting both a type of transfer sheet from a respective sheet tray and a print color to print received facsimile image data. Applicants also respectfully submit that such features distinguish over Tadokoro and Sakai.

Tadokoro is silent as to selecting any type of transfer sheet based on received facsimile image data. Further, Sakai merely discloses that a recording sheet fed from a same sheet tray is marked by an index mark in one of predetermined different colors based on a sending facsimile. In Sakai the color of the text itself is not changed, but the color of the index mark is changed to differentiate facsimile outputs according to senders. However, Sakai also does not teach or suggest any operation of changing a type of a transfer sheet based on a received facsimile image data.

In such ways, the claims as currently written are believed to clearly distinguish over Tadokoro in view of Sakai.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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